

Ford Challenges Soviet Ruler

Cites New Case of Tyranny In Plea for Public Pressure

(The Grand Rapids Press Bureau.)

Washington—An appeal to the Soviet government for "one single instance of decency" was issued on the floor of the house of representatives Wednesday by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, Jr., (R-Mich).

Referring to a recent interview he had with Nikolai Khokhlov, the Russian operative who refused to murder a rebel against the Communists in Germany, Ford suggested to his colleagues that the rulers behind the iron curtain may be more susceptible to world opinion than has been supposed.

Hopes for Force Release.

He read a news dispatch which indicated Khokhlov's wife and their infant son, as well as Mrs. Khokhlov's daughter, have been missing from their Moscow apartment. The wife was credited with having inspired her husband to follow his conscience in refusing to carry out the murder assignment in Frankfurt.

Ford hopes the Russians, who may have Mrs. Khokhlov and the children in secret custody, may see that public opinion demands that they release them and allow them to join Khokhlov.

"It is evident from action of this woman and her husband—and from the action of others who have renounced tyranny—that America and freedom have a strong, but silent ally living and thinking behind the bars of dictatorship," the Grand Rapids congressman observed.

"We know from many defectors that there are thousands of Russians who have renounced Soviet tyranny and who look quietly for assurance and understanding from outside the borders of the Soviet world. For us this fact is of great importance: These people represent a force for freedom, a force potentially far mightier than all the machines of destruction which a police state can turn upon its opponents."

Chooses Freedom.

"Khokhlov has placed his trust in the free world. His decision to reject murder and oppression as exemplified by the diabolical Soviet rulers, knowing full well the consequences, and to seek a new life under freedom dramatically emphasizes the utter lack of morality among such men as Malenkov, Molotov, Panyushkin, Khrushchev and the others."

"The sequel to the Khokhlov story, however, it finally may be written indelibly on the pages of history, can convey in concrete terms the understanding and reassurance for which those silent

Russian allies wait. The outcome depends first of all upon the force and conviction with which the people of the free world express their moral support of the Khokhlovs. We who are blessed with freedom and liberty, a form of government predicated on the dignity of man and leaders who are dedicated to high moral principles must demand of the Soviet leaders that they respond to our appeal for one single instance of decency and free the wife and child of Nikolai Khokhlov.

"Yes, the final word rests with the Soviet government. Will it by continued silence admit its disregard of the principles it professes? Or is it able to grant at least two defenseless beings, a mother and child, the right to the kind of life in which they believe?"

Ex-GI Dies. Reds Reveal

But Kin Is Skeptical of Explanation

Texon, Tex.—(AP)—A telegram from the Chinese Red Cross saying a sergeant died of heart disease and "complications," was regarded with skepticism here Wednesday.

The soldier was Sgt. Rufus E. Douglas, 27, one of the 21 United States prisoners of war who chose to stay with the Communists after being captured in Korea.

The message received Tuesday by his uncle, R. C. Howard, said Douglas died June 8 in a Chinese hospital of "a rheumatic heart disorder with complications."

Blames Reds.

Mrs. Howard, who reared Douglas after his mother and father died when he was a small child, said:

"I think the 'complications' were caused by them—the Reds. I've told my husband many times that boy wouldn't last a year there. And I don't think the others will either."

"If he had ever had heart trouble, we never heard of it, and I think we would have."

"So far as we've known he's never been sick in his life except for the ordinary childhood diseases."

Douglas was working at Odessa, Tex., when he was called into service. He was captured Jan. 1, 1951, while with headquarters, 1st battery, 19th regiment, 24th Infantry



WED AFTER 50-YEAR COURTSHIP—Finally wed after 50 years of courtship, Gordon Monroe, 58, and the former Elizabeth Van 87, are shown after the ceremony in Los Angeles. They went to school together in northeast Texas and "kept track through the years."

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